



CONNECTICUT PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

A COMPONENT OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
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**Testimony of
Carl Mailhot, PT
Public Policy Chair, CT Physical Therapy Association**

**in opposition to
SB 356, AAC Athletic Trainers**

**Before the Joint Committee on Public Health
March 7, 2016**

Chairperson Gerratana, Chairperson Ritter, Members of the Committee on Public Health. My name is Carl Mailhot and I am the Public Policy Chair of the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association. I am here today to testify in opposition to SB 356, AAC Athletic Trainers.

First, I would like to say that Athletic Trainers play an important role in the rehabilitation of primarily young, healthy athletic populations. In many situations, they work hand in hand with physical therapists in a professional collaborative environment. We also suggest that this bill is much improved over earlier versions, including those seen by the General Assembly in previous years.

The CPTA would like to voice its concern with the Athletic Trainers proposed change of the person which they can apply their services to, from an "athlete" in their scope of practice act Chap 375a, Athletic Training Sec. 20-65 f (1) to "physically active individual." Specifically, we are concerned with the latitude of "physically active individual" as a distinct group that may not necessarily be an athlete. The statute would now allow an individual participating in "recreational activities that require strength, agility, flexibility, range of motion, speed or stamina" to be treated by an ATC. While there is little change in the definition, a plain language reading of the statute could allow an athletic trainer to treat a geriatric patient who is active in her garden or taking a chair yoga class, despite significant co-morbidities. Most activities of living, including walking, involve some level of strength. Thus anyone who walks three times per week would be covered under this scope. This cannot be the Committee's intent.

It was our understanding that changes were being suggested to allow ATC's to work with young athletes, whose practice schedule might not meet the three times per week standard. We continue to look for language such as this as it would appear to be a reasonable, safe situation for ATCs.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We look forward to working with the Committee and the General Assembly throughout the session to address this issue.



**American
Physical Therapy
Association**